Year	No. of bonded labourers including bonded child labourers released from bondage
2000-2001	5256
2001-2002	3929
2002-2003	2198

(b) and (c) No instances relating to bonded labourers including child bonded labourers falling back into bondage after their release, have been reported.

(d) and (e) No. Sir. Adequate rehabilitation packages are provided to released bonded labourers including child bonded labourers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and other poverty alleviation programme being implemented in States. In addition, two Schemes exclusively for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely, the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations, have been launched. Under the Scheme of NCLPs, 100 National Child Labour Projects have been started in 13 child labour endemic States to provide formal/non-formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health care etc. for the children withdrawn from work.

Condition of bonded labourers

3101. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of bonded labourers in the country has gone from bad to worse, if so, the steps proposed to tackle this problem;

(b) the States where this problem exist;

(c) whether the States are not following the National Human Rights Commission's directives; and

(d) the steps being taken for compliance of NHRC's directives in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Bonded Labour System as been abolished by law through the country *w.e.f.* 24-10-1975 under

the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. As per the Act, Vigilance Committees have been constituted both at district and sub-divisional levels by the States/Union Territories for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. The District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been entrusted with certain duties and responsibilities under the Act with a view to take punitive action against the offenders for violation of the provisions of the Act. Incidence of Bonded Labour System have been reported from time to time, from 17 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(c) and (d) The National Human Rights Commission in their report dated 27th March, 2003 submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court informed that the response received from some States in relation to furnishing of information for monitoring of identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers was unsatisfactory, and requested that specific directions be issued by the Apex Court to these States. The Supreme Court in its order dated 15-7-2003 in Writ Petition No. 3922/85 have directed 11 State Governments to furnish required status reports as requested by the NHRC with effect from 1st January, 2002. The Ministry of Labour has also requested these State Governments for compliance of the above directions.

Amendment in child labour laws

3102. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY;
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Human Rights Commission has impressed upon the Central Government to amend laws relating to child labour and set a time frame to achieve free and compulsory education for children in collaboration with the States; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.